

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY COMMAND
OPERATIONAL RATIONS INSPECTION PROCEDURE (OPRATS IP12)
Revision 3, 3 March 2011

First Strike Ration (FSR) Inspection

1.0 **PURPOSE:** To establish standardized procedures for First Strike Ration (FSR) inspections.

2.0 **SCOPE:**

2.1 This document applies to Army Veterinary Inspectors (AVI) assigned to post, camp, or stations with responsibility for performing receipt, in-storage, warranty, prior to issue, and special inspections of FSR's.

2.2 This document discusses situations, procedures, and inspection guidance not covered in DSCP Handbook 4155.2 and DSCPH 4155.2 Appendix L.

3.0 **DEFINITIONS:**

3.1 See DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph V.

3.2 See DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L, Paragraph I.G.

3.3 See VETCOM OPRATS IP02

3.4 First Strike Ration – is a compact, eat-on-the-move, assault ration intended to be consumed during the first 72 hours of intense conflict by forward deployed soldiers.

3.5 Characteristics – All components of this lightweight ration are composed of a variety of calorically dense, eat-out-of-hand foods that require little or no preparation by the soldier. Like the MRE, it is a totally self-contained meal combined in one single flexible meal bag. The FSR is designed to be about the size of one MRE meal bag, but with enough food to replace three MRE's. There are currently 3 different menus with nine meal bags per shipping case, three of each menu.

3.6 Shelf life is a minimum of two years at 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

3.7 FSR does NOT contain a Flameless Ration Heater.

3.8 Nutritional data – Each menu provides approximately 2900 calories (14% Protein, 34% Fat, and 52% Carbohydrate).

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4.0 REFERENCES:

- 4.1 MEDCOM Regulation 40-28
- 4.2 MEDCOM Pamphlet 40-13
- 4.3 DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Inspection of Composite Rations
- 4.4 DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L, First Strike Ration

NOTE: Ensure to check the DSCP website,
<https://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/support/qapubs/index.asp> , for most current edition of DSCPH 4155.2 Appendix L

4.5 Applicable Military Details (MIL-DTL) found on DSCP website,
<https://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/support/specs/mil/index.asp>

4.6 DSCP Active Contract found on DSCP website,
<https://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/rations/programs/fsr/fsrcli.asp>

4.7 VETCOM Handbook 40-3, Installation Support Plan (ISP) Program

5.0 PROCEDURES:

5.1 Types and Frequency of Inspections.

- 5.1.1 Receipt Inspection – IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph VIII A.
 - 5.1.2 In-storage Inspection – IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph VIII B.
 - 5.1.3 Warranty Inspection – IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph VIII C.
 - 5.1.4 Prior to Sale or Shipment (Surveillance) Inspection – IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph VIII D.
 - 5.1.5 Special Inspection – IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Paragraph VIII E.
- 5.2 Formation of Lots. IAW DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L.
- 5.2.1 Normal Inspection.
 - 5.2.1.1 Table A (for use with Table C) – Lot size for “shipping containers” is the total number of cases.
 - 5.2.1.1.1 The “Lot Size” for Tables D, E, H, and I will remain as “menus”. The total number cases multiplied by 9 menus.

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5.2.1.2 Tables D and H (for use with Tables F, G and J) - Lot size for “menu bags and contents to include accessory bags and contents, and destructive open package inspection (DOPI)” is the total number of ration menus.

5.2.2 Special Inspection. Determine lot size IAW DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L, Paragraph 3, Special Inspection Guidance.

5.3 Sampling Plan. IAW DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L.

5.3.1 Normal Inspection.

5.3.1.1 Table A – The sample unit for “shipping containers” is one FSR case.

5.3.1.2 Tables D and H – The sample unit for “menu bags and contents to include accessory bags and contents, and destructive open package inspection (DOPI)” is one ration menu.

5.3.2 Special Inspection. Determine lot size IAW DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L, Paragraph 3, Special Inspection Guidance.

5.4 Performing the Inspection. Perform IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, Appendix L.

5.4.1 Time Temperature Indicator (TTI).

5.4.1.1 TTI’s are read by comparing the color of the indicator’s center to the outer ring surrounding it. AVI will use a TTI Comparator Card to perform this reading. Initially, the TTI has a bull’s-eye appearance, with the center being much lighter than the darker outer ring. The center is designed to darken with time and temperature, darkening more rapidly as the temperature increases. The theory behind the TTI is that there is a correlation between the appearance of the indicator and remaining shelf life of the ration.

5.4.1.2 The TTI’s appearance correlates directly with the numerical stages of the indicator (see TTI Chart below). When the numerical stage of the indicator increases above the initial “0” reading, the likelihood of finding time and temperature related defects in the ration increases. The AVI will take extra diligence when inspecting these rations. A change in condition code may be required based on the inspection results. Do not use the numerical reading as the sole source for determined condition code. The chart below shows the approximate remaining shelf life in months for rations stored at various temperatures for each of the numerical stages.

TTI CHART			
Appearance	Numerical Stage	“ <u>Approximate</u> ” Remaining Shelf Life (months)	
		60° F	80° F 100° F

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Center much lighter than outer ring	0	210	36	6.4
Center lighter than outer ring	1	146	24	4.5
Center slightly lighter than outer ring	2	106	17	3.2
Center same shade as outer ring	3	End of	expected	shelf life
Center slightly darker than outer ring	4	Exceeds	expected	shelf life
Center much darker than outer ring	5	Exceeds	expected	shelf life
Note: Additional information regarding TTI's can be found in the Lotus Notes Operational Rations Doc Library .				

5.5 Nonconformance Reporting – Perform IAW DSCP Handbook 4155.2, and DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L.

5.6 **CURSORY INSPECTIONS** (General Examination for Transportation Damage/Obvious Defects).

5.6.1 A complete Receipt/Routine inspection is not required for the following situations:

5.6.1.1 If the FSR's are delivered to the installation directly from the MRE assembly plant, a full receipt inspection is not required. Inspect these deliveries only for transportation damage/obvious defects.

5.6.1.2 If the FSR's are delivered from a depot or other installation and a current (within the last 30 days) inspection report, completed at the point of origin (for example, a depot, not another installation that received the same lot) accompanies the shipment. The accompanying inspection report should match the lot number and manufacturer/assembler information in the receipt/delivery documentation, as well as the marking on the shipping container, plus the delivery origin. Inspect these deliveries only for transportation damage/obvious defects.

5.7 **SURVEILLANCE INSPECTIONS.**

5.7.1 Surveillance inspections are performed on 6-months intervals following the last competed inspection. The last completed inspection could have been a receipt/cursory or a surveillance/routine, it does not matter. “Next Inspection Due” will NEVER be more than 6 months from the last completed inspection. This is also covered in DSCPH 4155.2, Appendix L, Paragraph II.M. Step 13.

5.7.2 Surveillance inspections are not required for FSR's held in commercially contracted cold storage (31-35 degrees Fahrenheit) locations, or for FSR's on ships that are maintained as Prepositioned War Reserve, Afloat rations. However a full receipt inspection will

be performed at the first destination where these rations are sent after being removed from these storage locations.

6.0 **RECORDS, REPORTS AND FORMS:**

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- 6.1 DSCP Form 5117
- 6.2 Maintain a copy of the completed DSCP Form 5117 in the local file.
- 6.3 DO NOT post FSR inspections in the VETCOM Lotus Notes MRE Inspection Database.
- 6.4 A CVR will be completed for each ration inspection to establish a record in the ISP application and capture the manpower required.